

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed April 10, 2003, has been received and reviewed. Claims 1 through 30 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1 through 3, 5 through 9, 11 through 19, and 21 through 30 stand rejected. Claims 4, 10, and 20 have been objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but the indication of allowable subject matter in such claims is noted with appreciation. Applicant has amended claims 4, 10, and 20 and respectfully requests reconsideration of the application as amended herein.

Information Disclosure Statement(s)

Applicant notes the filing of an Information Disclosure Statement herein on November 11, 1999 and notes that no copy of the PTO-1449 was returned with the outstanding Office Action. Applicant respectfully requests that the information cited on the PTO-1449 be made of record herein. For your convenience, *Applicant encloses herewith a second copy of the November 11, 1999 Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449, and USPTO date-stamped postcard evidencing receipt of the same by the Office, and respectfully requests that an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 be returned to Applicant's attorney with the next office action.*

35 U.S.C. § 102 Anticipation Rejections

Anticipation Rejection Based on U.S. Patent No. 5,703,408 to Ming-Tsung et al.

Claims 1 through 3, 5 through 7, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Ming-Tsung et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,703,408). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, as hereinafter set forth. The rejected claims have been canceled. As such, the rejection is moot.

Anticipation Rejection Based on Japanese Patent No. JP 59-35437 to Hayakawa

Claims 8, 17, 18, and 26 through 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hayakawa (Japanese Patent No. JP 59-35437). The rejected claims have been canceled. As such, the rejection is moot.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Obviousness Rejections

Obviousness Rejection Based on Japanese Patent No. JP 59-35437 to Hayakawa in View of U.S. Patent No. 5,703,408 to Ming-Tsung et al.

Claims 9, 11 through 15, 19, and 21 through 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayakawa (Japanese Patent No. JP 59-35437) in view of Ming-Tsung et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,703,408). The rejected claims have been canceled. As such, the rejection is moot.

Objections to Claims 4, 10, and 20/Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4, 10, and 20 stand objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but are indicated to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if placed in appropriate independent form. Claims 4, 10, and 20 have been amended to place the same in independent form, per the Examiner's suggestion. As such, Applicant believes claims 4, 10, and 20 to be allowable and respectfully requests early notice of the same.

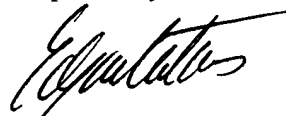
ENTRY OF AMENDMENTS

The amendments to claims 4, 10 and 20 above should be entered by the Examiner because the amendments are supported by the as-filed specification and drawings and do not add any new matter to the application.

CONCLUSION

Claims 4, 10, and 20 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner determine that additional issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, he is respectfully invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



Edgar R. Cataxinos
Registration No. 39,931
Attorney for Applicant(s)
TRASKBRITT
P.O. Box 2550
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110-2550
Telephone: 801-532-1922

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